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Pd 2

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Summary

Pgs. 1-102

The book I’m reading now is called, *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of The Cultural Revolution.* It’s based around a 12 year old girl named, Ji-li Jiang and her experience through the Cultural Revolution in China. Everything in her life starts to change around her at a fast pace and she’s constantly confused, wondering what will be taken from her next. She was an excellent student and a shining future in Chairman Mao’s New China. Once intelligence became a crime and a wealthy family background invited persecution or worse. Through these pages that I’ve read so far, it basically just leads you into how her life has shifted from being so innocent and just her enjoying childhood. Things start to change in school; everyone turns against her because she’s promoting the “four olds”. This meant she was promoting the old customs. The Red Guards are constantly raiding people’s homes in search of people who are still behind and not getting rid of these old customs, luckily Jiang and her family have been lucky enough to not be raided by them yet, but they are still extremely cautious about it. Where I’ve stopped at; Jiang takes on the duties of cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, and taking care of her Grandma because their long time nanny they had to fire because of the new customs they have to obtain to. Jiang also feels obligated to do so because her Grandma is ill and her parents are always busy with work. She wonders what will become of her and her family.

Reflection

The book is a very, very easy read. It’s a very interesting perspective on someone’s life from a different country. I’ve never read anything like it. I’m actually enjoying it and for once I’ve been able to connect to the reading as well. She’s lost and trying to make sense of this change. I feel like I can connect to this because I’m a senior this year and things have changed so fast for me and it’s hard to make sense of it all. Where has time gone? What will my future look like? Even though hers is more of a Cultural movement, it’s still change and moving fast paced.

What inherent human characteristics span time and culture?

For this particular book, I think some inherent characteristics that span time and culture are leaders taking advantage of the young minds of the future. The kids in this book are basically brain washed by some man that says to do this and this just because society praises him. They don’t have a chance to have their own opinion or get the kind of respect they deserve. History constantly repeats itself. Young kids are constantly influenced by what society and leaders have to say. Politicians play this card every day; they try to appeal to the “kids of the future.” Most of them don’t care, most of them do, but the fact of the matter is they try to appeal to the older crowd so they influence their kids to live by what they have to say. Mao does this with the country; he uses his power and profoundness to appeal to the younger crowd. He shows them that they need to throw out the old customs because people aren’t “progressing” the way he thinks people should be. Time has shown that leaders constantly try to sway the public’s opinion to theirs, so there’s an ultimate power they have over all.